

PROCLAIM

CHRIST THE KING PARISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2021 | VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 3



CATHOLIC CUE

Praying On The Move

COME ALIVE

Does my work have meaning?

MINISTRY PROFILE

The Path from the Balcony to the Narthex

Amazed By Faith

Matt Zahn tells us about his journey of becoming Catholic

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Glendinning

Dear Friends,

You will often hear me use the term “missionary disciple” in my homilies. Oxford dictionary defines disciple as “a follower or student of a teacher, leader, or philosopher.” To be a student, a disciple, we must be learning.

The Catholic Church has a rich history of studying the teachings of Jesus, the doctrines (official teachings) of his Church, Sacred Scripture, and the early Church fathers. Our inclusion of discipleship in the parish’s *Plan for Renewal* is a recognition of the importance for each of us to understand our faith more deeply with each passing day. The more we grow in our understanding of God and our faith, I firmly believe, the stronger our faith will become. None of us will learn it all in our lifetime. What is important is that we always remain eager students of Jesus and his Church. It is only from this position of humility and hunger that we can be effective in our ministry as missionaries.

With this in mind, I would like to encourage you all, young and old, to participate in some program of spiritual enrichment this year in our parish (or beyond). I know many have been enjoying Father

Mike Schmitz’ *Bible in a Year* podcast and there are many other digital resources available for those seeking to learn. One program close to my own heart, though, is our very own Emmaus.

Emmaus is a whole community formation program, meaning that all generations in our parish, from our youngest to our oldest members, gather to study their faith as a parish family. The content is rich, the fellowship is enriching, and the food is delicious! This year, we will be studying the Nicene Creed that we pray each weekend at Mass. Each month, we will look at a different part of the Creed. I look forward to attending and I hope to see you there. To register for Emmaus, visit christthekingnh.org/emmaus.

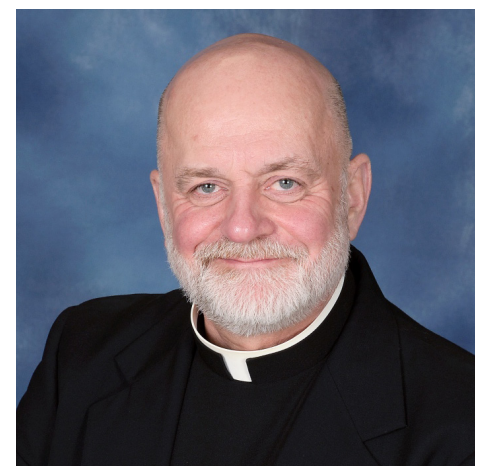
Emmaus isn’t the only thing we offer for those seeking to learn more about their faith. Alpha is certainly helpful for those wanting to learn more about the Gospel message and its relevance today. There are several bible studies offered in our parish as well as topical studies. The best way to stay on top of these offerings is to subscribe to our weekly email, Parish Happenings. You can sign up for these emails through our

newly improved website. Check it out!

The dictionary definition I started this letter with is applicable but insufficient in getting at the heart of the meaning of disciple for us as Christians because Jesus is more than a “teacher, leader, or philosopher.” He is God. This, my friends, is why we can never stop learning. We will never fully understand God in this life but we are always rewarded in the steps we take towards him.

Yours in Christ,

Father Rich



Father Richard Roberge is the pastor at Christ the King Parish.

Praying On The Move



Stock

If you're like me, a parent of school-aged children, the hustle and bustle of the new school year has kicked in by now. Whether you're off to morning drop-off or afternoon pick-up, shuttling kiddos to and from sports practices, dance class, and music lessons, you find that you're spending a lot more time in your car and a lot less quality time with your whole family in one spot.

In my experience, this time of year really calls for me, as a Catholic wife and mom, to stay vigilant and get creative with the when and wheres of our prayer and quality time. I'd like to say we're the type of family that wakes up calmly and comes together for morning prayer before we all start jumping into our daily tasks, but... we're just not.

The boys mumble through a sleepy grace before they gobble down breakfast. A quick blessing with holy water and a reminder from me to put on the "Armor of God" is done just before they run off to brush their teeth and get

ready for the day.

It's not until we are all in the car that things settle down. We start down the driveway, and I prompt everyone to take a deep breath and calm themselves a bit before we all make the Sign of the Cross and begin our morning prayer together. We open in singing a Psalm, then we dive into a few traditional prayers, like the daily offering and the Prayer to Saint Michael.

We each go around and, in our own words, offer prayers of thanksgiving and lift up any intentions we have for ourselves, our family, friends, community, country, and the world. No prayer is too big or too small. We end with praying for the intercessions of some of our favorite saints and we close in singing a line from another Psalm. Then we sing and clap along to a series of high spirited, "Amen"!

Our "prayer time on the move" shows my boys and me that, no matter how busy life is, we can talk to the Lord anytime, anywhere and that there is no right or wrong way to pray. We have shared laughter

and tears; we've prayed through anger, sadness, disappointment, joy, and everything in between. Our time spent in prayer together in the car is some of the highest quality time I spend with my boys and I get an insight into their sweet souls that I couldn't get if we weren't praying aloud together.

So, next time you jump in the car, consider taking a few minutes to pray together. You never know where Jesus might take you! ♦



Lomanno

Jen Albee is the Coordinator of Young Disciples at Christ the King Parish.

Does my work have meaning?

This summer, members of the Christ the King Young Adult Group gathered in Rollins Park to study the book of Ecclesiastes. As always, diving into the word of God with my peers inspired me and inspired the question for this article. For those of you who may not have read the book of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament, I highly recommend it! But prepare yourself for some sobering philosophical reflections.

In short, Ecclesiastes is about the search for meaning we all undertake in life. The author makes a repeated statement about what is meaningful in our fleeting time on earth that warrants our consideration all these years later. The thesis of Ecclesiastes is essentially the following: the best a person can do in this life is to find enjoyment in the work that God has given them to do.

Understandably, this repeated assertion of the author continually spurred our bible study into conversations about work. How are we to understand this biblical truth in a society that seems to either resent or idolize work? What is a true biblical understanding of work?

Let's start our exploration at the very beginning, in the book of Genesis. As we discussed last month, while we need not read Genesis with a literal lens, we are called to accept the religious truths found within it. Early on

in the narrative, God creates man and places him in the Garden of Eden and instructs him to work it. In paradise, man is designed to work! How many of us would envision paradise to include work? *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "There [man] lives 'to till [the garden] and keep it.' Work is not yet a burden, but rather the collaboration of man and woman with God in perfecting the visible creation." (378) And so, we see that humans are built for work from the very beginning.

This idea is reiterated by the Catechism stating that in our work, humans reflect the image of God. From there, it goes on to say, "Work honors the Creator's gifts and the talents received from him. It can also be redemptive... [Man] shows himself to be a disciple of Christ by carrying the cross, daily, in the work he is called to accomplish." (2427) This is our second essential truth about work – work, when done for the Lord, has the power to redeem us, to save us from our sins, and to bring us closer to God. As Colossians 3:23-24 states: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

In knowing that we as humans are called to work and that our work has great purpose, we also

must remember that we are commanded to balance work and rest. This helps prevent work from becoming an idol which replaces God in our lives. In discussing the third commandment - remember to keep holy the sabbath day - the Catechism states: "Just as God 'rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done,' human life has a rhythm of work and rest." (2184) If you are interested in learning more about the sabbath day, head to YouTube and search for "Christ the King, Third Commandment!"

There is an important balance to be found between our call to work and our call to place God higher than work. As the Catechism declares, "Work is for man, not man for work." (2428) While work is essential to our well-being, it is not our ultimate purpose – to know and love God. Work must find its proper place in our lives. In the words of our Lord from Matthew 6:24: "No one can serve two masters." ♦



Haley Judd is the Coordinator of Adult Discipleship at Christ the King Parish.

Please consider submitting your questions about the Catholic faith! No question is too big or small. Simply email parish@christthekingnh.org with the subject line "Come Alive."

Amazed By Faith

Matt Zahn tells us about his journey of becoming Catholic



Graham

by Michael Clark | Photography by Charlene Graham

The Catholic faith is known for being intellectually rigorous and philosophically and theologically complex. When you open up the Catechism of the Catholic Church, you encounter a treasure trove of ancient truths, which encompass just about every aspect of life. You learn about God, about creation, about human nature, and about the promise of salvation. However, the Catholic faith is not a mere intellectual exercise but is meant to be lived out in concrete ways in our daily lives. When the faith is lived in such a way, it comes alive and it us into witnesses of deep truths.

The journey from learning the teachings of the faith to living out of those teachings figures prominently in Matt Zahn's faith story. When he was growing up, Matt belonged to a "very secular household." Partly because of this, Matt says, "I grew up ignorant of

any kind of religious tradition." This dearth of religious education contributed to the attitude about religion that he had throughout much of his young adulthood. Matt says, "While I was in college, I had that college kid arrogance about religion, which tended to dismiss religious belief as mere superstition." As time went by, however, and especially as he approached his 30s, Matt started to become more interested in religious questions.

"I think," he says, "that to some extent my old worldview started to change." This old worldview, marked by a "vague, materialistic understanding of the universe," familiar to us as the de facto outlook of secular society in general, was something that started to look weaker and weaker to Matt the more he thought about it. Materialism, in his view,

could not adequately explain the existence of certain fundamentally transcendent phenomena, such as "human consciousness and morality and beauty." The more he contemplated the materialist outlook, the less convincing it became. "I started to lose that picture of the world," he says.

This changing perspective was the beginning of a period of investigation and study for Matt. While in college, Matt was a Philosophy major, so he was certainly up to the task. "I started looking at different traditions," he says. "I started to poke around and read stuff I would have never thought to read before. My investigations concerned religion in the abstract, and my interest was very free-floating." He studied many different traditions, such as Buddhism, Hinduism, and Judaism, and found value in all of

them. His studies were fruitful, but there was no lasting conviction that resulted from them. Matt jokes, "In the morning I'd be a Buddhist and then the next day I'd be like, 'Okay, now I'm going to yeshiva.' My investigations were primarily intellectual and didn't have anything to do with lived faith."

It was lived faith that Matt would eventually encounter, in what he calls a "watershed moment" in his life. His grandmother, who had been away from the church for many years, decided, after the death of her husband, to begin attending Mass again. Matt's aunts, uncles, and father all pitched in to assist her in this desire, driving and attending Mass with her. Eventually, Matt's father asked if Matt could bring her to Mass, and he agreed. Matt saw it as a learning opportunity, which would fit in well with his studies of various religious traditions. What he was to encounter would be far more powerful than anything his studies had yielded thus far. "I was just really amazed at the Mass," he says. "I was greatly impressed by the beauty and ornateness that I found in the ritual of the Mass. While the Mass was being said, I thought, 'This is really amazing.'"

Of equal and probably even greater impact for him than the beauty of the Mass was the experience of watching his grandmother at Mass. She was in her 80s and had health problems, but "as soon as she walked in there I could see how deeply she belonged and how reverent she was." Indeed, Matt was greatly affected by the common gestures of reverence that Catholics tend to make unconsciously and often take for granted. "I remember when she genuflected for the first time," he says. "I didn't even know what that was. My grandmother's serenity and the feeling that she had of

really being in the real presence of God constituted a witness that would inspire in me a decision to become a Catholic." Through that witness, he was able to see that the Catholic Church offered something that was "so totally different than a secular way of being. The way of life offered by the Catholic Church is a lived faith, a concrete acting out of the deepest truths of existence."

"I was greatly impressed by the beauty and ornateness that I found in the ritual of the Mass. While the Mass was being said, I thought, 'This is really amazing.'"

The living out of the faith, and the many different ways that believers try to do so, is also a cornerstone of what Matt found most compelling about Emmaus, the faith formation program offered by Christ the King Parish. Each Emmaus session includes a lesson about some specific faith topic. Each lesson displays all the intellectual and spiritual richness that one can expect from a presentation on Catholic teaching. But these teachings come to life in a very profound way in the small group discussions that accompany the lessons. It is within these small groups that participants are able to talk about the concrete ways that

the faith has affected their lives and the individual ways in which they try to live out the faith.

Matt's first experience of Emmaus was in the fall preceding the Covid-19 pandemic. Once the pandemic and the associated lockdowns became a fact of life for all, Emmaus had to transition to an online format. But whether online or in-person, the impact that the Emmaus program has had is very deep and profound. For Matt, "the best part of Emmaus is hearing everyone's stories. The diversity of these stories can be striking." Matt has observed that while some Emmaus participants are very devout and sure in their faith, there are also some participants who are still in the process of journeying towards a closer relationship with Christ. The mutually beneficial interactions between these different participants, consisting of "honest discussions about where they are in their respective journeys is something that I found to be very valuable."

"Faith without works is dead." This saying from the Letter of James indicates to readers that it is never enough to merely believe, for it is in acting out our beliefs in our daily lives that the faith transforms us and allows us to participate in transforming the world. This truth is emphasized in Matt's story and in the work of Emmaus, which show us that belief and action are not separate, but are both crucial to serving Jesus and spreading the Good News. ♦

JOIN US FOR EMMAUS

Emmaus is a place where every disciple of Christ of **every age** can come and grow deeper in their Catholic faith and deeper in fellowship with their church community. Find out more at christthekingnh.org/emmaus.

The Path from the Balcony to the Narthex



By Emily Planchet | Photography by Will Judd

If you were to look for Bob Cloutier at Mass just a few years ago, you would invariably find him and his family sitting in the balcony. Why? “That’s where the least amount of people would sit,” he explains. Though he had participated in small roles during Mass, first at St. Peter and then at Christ the King, getting to know his fellow church-goers was never really on his radar – in fact, it was quite the opposite. “For the longest time I didn’t want to talk to anyone when I went to church,” he says. Then, everything changed with the introduction of “The Tent.”

In spring 2019, all liturgies were moved to a large tent on the campus grounds while the church building was being refurbished. Suddenly, Bob, always used to distance, was now worshipping shoulder to shoulder with his fellow parishioners. In doing so, he began to feel a sense of community he had not before. “I saw our parish bonding together in

the tent,” he says. Perhaps it was because of this newfound sense of community that he felt he needed to get involved with the hospitality ministry. That initial “Yes” changed his experience at Christ the King forever.

In no time at all, the man who could not do enough to stay away suddenly found himself at the very heart of the hospitality ministry – and he loved it. “I never used to like to talk to anybody, now I talk to everybody,” he says. When the tent was dismantled in late fall of that same year, he quickly moved to the world of ushering. From greeting people at the door, to taking up the collection, to chatting with people as they leave, Bob’s role as an usher made him feel even closer to the community of Christ the King. “It makes me feel a part of the church,” he says.

Ushering – and getting involved in other ministries like LiveStreaming the liturgy – has even changed his appreciation for

the sacraments. “I love going to Mass,” he says, “when before it felt more like something I had to do.”

So when you come to Mass at Christ the King, you won’t find Bob sitting in the balcony anymore. You will most likely find him opening the door, greeting you, and helping you find a spot to sit. While this was not something he ever expected to happen, he recommends it to everyone. “Get involved,” he says. “It’s so rewarding to be part of a ministry!” ♦

BECOME AN USHER

Would you like to become and usher for weekend Mass? To get involved, please contact the parish office, 603.224.2328. You can also speak with Anthony Stevens or Eric Swenson, the head ushers, at Mass. For a full list of all parish ministries, visit christthekingnh.org.

SEPTEMBER 2021

September 1: Adoration

Men's Ministry hosts adoration on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00-8:00 pm in the church. All are welcome!

September 6: Labor Day

The parish office will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

September 12: Summer BBQ

Looking for fellowship? Want to grow in your faith this fall? You're invited to a BBQ sponsored by the Men's and Women's Ministries to meet fellow parishioners and to learn more about the ministries. The BBQ will be at 4:00-5:30 pm in the courtyard outside Barry Hall. At 5:30 pm, the ministries will gather separately to provide more information. To RSVP, men, please email menofctk@gmail.com, and, women, please email ctkwwp20@gmail.com.

September 12: Ladies' Wine & Dessert

Come and check out the Women's Ministry's fall offerings including Bible Study, Craft Nights, and Walking Club on Sunday, September 12, at 6:30 pm in the Parish Activity Center for all women (high school on up). For more information, email ctkwwp20@gmail.com.

September 12-18: Women's Ministry Bible Study

Starting the week of September 12-18, the Women Ministry will host a Bible Study. There are in-person & Zoom options. Join us as we explore the core questions that we need to wrestle with if we want to experience all that God has for us. If you are interested, please email ctkwwp20@gmail.com.

September 17 & 19: Emmaus
Come to our first Emmaus

gathering! The theme for the year is "We Believe: Understanding the Nicene Creed." This weekend, we will be introducing the Creed. For more information and to register, visit christthekingnh.org/emmaus.

September 16: Alpha
Alpha meets every Thursday for 12 weeks. There will be in-person and Zoom options. All are welcome to attend and no questions are off the table. For more information, visit christthekingnh.org/alpha.

September 20: Young Adult Bible Study

Young Adult Ministry is for those in their 20s and 30s looking to explore the Catholic faith in fellowship with their peers. Our Bible Study will begin September 20 at 6:30 pm in the IHM Room of Barry Hall. Bring your own Bible! For more information, email McKayne Boedeker at mckayneboedeker@gmail.com

September 25: Harvest Bazaar

Come for fun, fellowship, and fresh air at this year's outside event including a flea market, country store, raffles, baking table, and so much more! For more information, visit christthekingnh.org/harvest-bazaar.

OCTOBER 2021

October 11: Columbus Day

The parish office will be closed in observance of Columbus Day.

October 15 & 17: Emmaus

The theme for the year is "We Believe: Understanding the Nicene Creed." This weekend we will be talking about "The Father Almighty." Visit christthekingnh.org/emmaus.

NOVEMBER 2021

November 1: All Saints' Day



All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. Because this holy day it falls on a Monday this year, there is no obligation to attend Mass.

November 25: Thanksgiving

"We thank you, Father, for the gift of Jesus your Son who came to our Earth and lived in a simple home. We have a greater appreciation of the value and dignity of the human family because he loved and was loved within its shelter. Bless us this day; may we grow in love for each other in our family and so give thanks to you who are the maker of all human families and our abiding peace." (*The Catholic Prayer Book*)

MONTHLY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

September 4 & 5:
Catholic University/USCCB (Diocesan)
Food Pantry (Parish)

September 11 & 12:
Fuel & Utilities (Parish)

September 18 & 19:
Maintenance (Parish)

September 25 & 26:
Priest Retirement (Diocesan)

CONTACT INFO

Christ the King Parish
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Weekend Masses
Saturday: 4:00 pm
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11:00 am

Weekday Masses
Monday, Wednesday, Friday:
12:10 pm
Thursday: 5:30 pm

Reconciliation Times
Thursday: 4:45-5:15 pm
Saturday: 2:30-3:30 pm

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Father Rich Roberge
frich@christthekingnh.org

Deacon
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MONTHLY OFFERTORY REPORT

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Online	\$5,748.52	\$7,671.15	\$7,035.38	\$6,918.11
Other*	\$357.25	\$485.00	\$908.97	\$2,392.66
Total	\$14,452.10	\$18,494.15	\$20,851.35	\$16,917.77
<i>Special Collection</i>		\$1,888.00		

* "Other" covers any extra funds that support our daily operations, such as donations towards the Fuel and Utilities collections, as well as feast day/solemnity donations.

ONLINE GIVING

For more information on the parish's online giving program, visit christthekingnh.org/give or call Liz Geary at the parish office, **603.224.2328**.

ENVELOPES

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christthekingnh.org/alpha

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